

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

Language is the main device in communication process. People use language to communicate and express their ideas. According to O'Grady (1996, p. 1) language is a system of communication, a medium for thought, a vehicle for literary expression, a social institution, a matter for political controversy, a catalyst for nation building. Generally, in communication the speakers try to keep using their own language vocabulary, yet if the diction used is considered unsuitable, they will try to adapt, borrow, or even create some new words in conformity with the messages to be delivered. "A new word can be borrowed from other languages, coined or invented by known or unknown individual person, or created from existing words" (Mardijono, 2012). This situation leads to the creation of new words in the language of speakers use such kinds of efforts bring into the growth and the development of a language that is the emergence of new vocabulary either deliberately or even accidentally.

Through that situation, the emergence of new vocabulary will possibly happen any time, and it also encourages speakers to be creative in forming and making a new word. This situation also happens in *kerata basa*. *Kerata basa* is the Javanese language in which some new words are created by using '*othak-athik gathuk*'. Marianto (1995) defines that Javanese are used to '*otak-atik gathuk*' (tinkering with words to playfully and sometimes randomly find new meanings). It derives from *kerata basa*. For instance, the word *kodhok* means frog. It is an animal, yet in *kerata basa kodhok* (frog) is splitted into *ko* and *dhok*, '*ko*' derives from '*teka-teka*' which

means as soon as coming while *'dhok'* originates from *'ndhodhok'* which means squat. Thus, the meaning *kodhok* in *kerata basa* is changed into the animal which comes by squatting. Furthermore, Suwardi (1996) defines that *'othak-athik gathuk'* principle originates from *kerata basa* or *jarwa dhosok* then it is considered as contextual folk etymology which leads to a spiritual culture. It shows that *'othak-athik gathuk'* principle (the interpretation and exegesis from Javanese society) is a cultural background of Javanese society in forming *kerata basa* term.

According to Irmawati (2013) *kerata basa* is the Javanese folk etymology. Marianto (1995) also emphasizes that *kerata basa* is an activity which occurs in *wayang* performances where the *dhalang* plays with rhyming folk etymologies. Nevertheless, *kerata basa* is not only considered as the folk etymology but it also has some philosophical messages behind those words meaning. For instance, the word *guru* (teacher) in *kerata basa* means *digugu* (to be obeyed) *lan* (and) *ditiru* (be imitated). In this case, *guru* (teacher) is regarded not only as a teacher but it also an educator. He/she should be able to be a great leader by giving a good example that properly to be obeyed and imitated by students and others. Therefore, in *kerata basa* the word *guru* philosophically describes the one who is willing to give a good example to be obeyed and to be imitated by the others.

Kerata basa is categorized a wordplay or association of words (Boogert, 2015). In this context, *kerata basa* refers to one of the characteristics of wordplay by composing a word rhythm through informal way. Arps (2016) defines that *kerata basa* works by dissecting the word denoting that concept into parts that are each identified as parts of the words. The meanings of those words serve to characterize and enhance the original word meaning. For example, the word *wanita* ('female' 'woman') is

separated into *wani* and *ta*, the word '*wani*' means to dare while '*ta*' originates from '*ditata*' which means to be put into order. It shows that the existence of *kerata basa* enriches the use of language in unique and creative way.

In this case, *kerata basa* indirectly refers to the characteristics of word formation process. Word formation is a process to create a new words (Tumewan, 2013). Inspired by the phenomenon, the writer is interested in investigating the *kerata basa* word formation process. In conducting this research, the writer found one previous study that has been conducted by Miyake (2014) entitled "A Javanese Word Game." She focused on the kind of words that are found in *kerata basa* vocabulary and the phonological features of *keratabasa*. She claims that *kerata basa* is kind of reversal acronym of Javanese folk etymology and it is a spontaneous wordplay. In comparison to the previous study, this study looks for the word formations process in *kerata basa* words by using qualitative methods, and the purpose of this research is to find out the types of word formation process and the patterns that are mostly used in forming *kerata basa* term.

1.2. FIELD OF THE STUDY

This research belongs to linguistics field. In particular, it is a part of Morphology. This study focused on types of word formation process and the patterns in forming *kerata basa*.

1.3. SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The scope of this study is word formation process since the writer analyze what types of word formation process and the patterns that are mostly used in forming *kerata basa* term. The data were collected from *pepak basa jawa* textbooks. Then, the

writer analyzed and divided the data into two parts. There were types of word formation process and patterns that are mostly used in *kerata basa*.

1.4. PROBLEM FORMULATION

The writer, in this research, formulates two problems related to the word formation process in *kerata basa* words:

1. What types of word formation process that are involved in *kerata basa*?
2. What patterns that are mostly used in forming *kerata basa*?

1.5. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

Regarding to the problems mentioned above, this study is conducted to achieve the following objectives:

1. To find out the types of word formation process which are involved in *kerata basa*.
2. To find out the patterns which are mostly used in forming *kerata basa*.

1.6. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

This research is expected to give more knowledge and positive contribution towards the development of researches in Morphology field. The writer expects this research can introduce Javanese language through *kerata basa*, and also the writer hopes this study will give an important starting point for a further research especially on Javanese language.

1.7. DEFINITION OF TERMS

a. *Kerata basa*

Kerata basais defined as wordplay or association of words (Boogert, 2015).

b. Word formation Process

Word Formation is a process to create a new words (Tumewan, 2013).